By Liam Timmins

Artist Sean Kelly

Sean Kelly and Wiltrud Dull together for the "A Dull Moment" exhibition.

Local painter/creative Sean Kelly recently collaborated with German artist Wiltrud Dull for a joint-exhibition held in the Library, displaying a unique selection of their talents and offering an insight into their creators motives.

Sean Kelly from Portnick, had a strong interest in painting early in his years but found it difficult to maintain a living in the craft. He was awarded a scholarship in the National College of Art in 1964 but curtailed his studies after two years due to economic issues.

Instead, he trained as an architect, working as a first assistant planner for Roscommon County Council for several years before running his own practice from 1969 to 1990.

Among his more notable achievements are drawing up the template for the foundation stone of N.I.H.E Limerick, now the University of Limerick, and the stained-glass windows in Creagh Church, Ballinasloe in collaboration with the Late Patrick Pye.

Sean also worked for a period of time as a computer aided designer in the 90's, being invited to help establish foundation modules and lecture for education centres at Athlone IT and Roscommon VEC.

In 2007, he joined the Property Registration Authority and later was elected to their committee for the selection and purchase of artwork of their new Government Offices in Roscommon. It was this project that acted as the catalyst to lead him to return to the study of Art and Design at the Galway-Mayo Institute of technology and graduate with a Bachelor's degree in 2018.

In the past decade, Sean held an exhibition in Kilrush and had his work showcased twice before in Ballinasloe. Following his GMIT graduation showcase, he had one of his paintings from his DeProfundis collection bought by the State for inclusion in the national collection.

Sean's previous latest joint exhibition was hosted in Ballinmore at the Solas Gallery in 2022 collaborating with Sligo artist Pat Gillen.

About six years ago, Sean met Wiltrud Dull through a mutual friend in the village of Cross in Loophead, County Clare. Wiltrud is a German artist, now based in Woodford, who in her retirement has picked up painting and has showcased her work in many solo exhibits across the country.

The duo remained in contact through their shared fondness and ideals in the craft and in the last year Wiltrud approached Sean proposing a joint-exhibition of their work.

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A total of 52 paintings were on display in the church gallery of the Library. Their work shared a lot of similarities, with a strong emphasis on technique and use of acrylics and watercolours, although Sean Kelly is "happy to work in any medium that communicates to the public" he states.

The local artist is a staunch believer in having free exhibitions, welcoming an audience to his shows at no cost. "You are getting a performance for free" he emphasised, "whether you like it or dislike it." Furthermore, Sean maintained the idea that he, as the artist, must be available throughout the exhibition to present and answer any questions regarding his work, remaining in situ at the Library Gallery until the final day.

The event was a success for the pair, seeing visitors from all across the country and snapping up the works at very modest direct to artist prices.

Next up for Sean Kelly is an exhibition in Ballinrobe on June 16, along with some miscellaneous design work for sculptures. For the moment, he continues to take submissions and spend the days easy in his quasi-retirement. Sean can be contacted by (085) 862 7046, and a collection of his art can be found at **www.seankellyartist.wordpress.com.**

LIVESTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL EDITION 2

East Galway's youngest Festival - the family-centred "LiveStock" music festival is just around the corner, bringing to Aughrim a treat of activities and performances of Ireland's top and emerging artists.

Organisers Cormac Jennings and Sharon Sweeney are keen to have their own interests and influences reflected in the festival, weaving their strong environmental ethos into its fabric. The event will be hosted on the Cormac's organic farm on the naturally rolling Liskelly landscape and will be bedecked with feature pieces of local, national, and international artists.

Taking place from July 1 to 2, it will cater to music fans with a wide range of genres including funk-rock, jazz fusion, traditional Irish to reggae. Along with headliners Jiggy and Overhead the Albatross, attendees can expect electrifying performances from Barefoot Magicians, Staff Party, Alessandra, Tung in Cheek, and many more.

Activities for the young uns include – storytelling, iron smelting, art exhibitions and life-sized board games – all building on the feed back from the first edition last year.

Tickets are limited –(this is not Glastonbury!) but some are still available at €125 for the weekend and €70 for the day, but U-14s can be brought along for free when accompanied by an adult. More information and bookings can be made to www.livestockfestivalgalway.com.

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